

## ‘Click It, Ticket’ campaign snags 19 drivers

Of 1,010 vehicles stopped for checks on seatbelt use, 19 drivers were cited for noncompliance.

That figure is a drop from 63 cited in the June enforcement campaign.

The vehicle checks at entry gates and enforcement points throughout Kirtland AFB were part of the “Click It or Ticket” campaign, an effort to encourage seatbelt use and to reduce the number of people lost to vehicle accidents due to lack of seatbelt use.

The military partnered with the Air Bag and Seat Belt Safety Campaign and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to address one of the leading causes of death for military personnel, traffic crashes.

Wayne Ragan, 377th Air Base Wing Safety Office chief, cited 2002 statistics showing that 321 military personnel across all service branches lost their lives in traffic crashes.

Military personnel, by virtue of their age groups, Ragan said, are highly represented in the high risk category of male, 18-34 years old. The majority of offenders in this year’s campaign were civilians.

## Firefighters’ toy drive under way

The annual Operation Christmas Cheer toy drive sponsored by the Kirtland AFB Fire Department provides holiday fun for children attending the holiday party with Santa, Dec. 22, at Fire Station 2 on the west side of the base.

New and gently used toy donations can be taken through Dec. 16 to Fire Station 1 at Wyoming Boulevard and F Avenue or to Fire Station 2.

This year marks the 25th annual Operation Christmas Cheer that has grown to include more than 2,000 people from the local area.

For more information, contact Milton Miller at 846-5079 or 401-0375.

## Inspection prep week held Dec. 8-12

The week of Dec. 8-12 is a Nuclear Surety Inspection Preparation week for the 377th Air Base Wing.

The purpose of this week will be for wing organizations to ensure their personnel are prepared for the upcoming June 2004 inspection.

There will be wing level exercises conducted throughout the week.

During these exercises, you may observe slight delays at base gates. Gate closures will be kept as short as possible. Yield to responding emergency vehicles.

All personnel participating in these exercises should be prepared for colder weather and dress appropriately.

Only 377th Air Base Wing units will be expected to react to exercise inputs.



Photo byDennis Carlson

## Power Zone’s outstanding employee

Brig. Gen. Toreaser A. Steele, Army and Air Force Exchange Service vice commander, presented BX employee Timothy Johnson his award for Outstanding Person with a Disability for 2003. Johnson works in the BX Power Zone electronics department.

## Johnson cited as ‘outstanding’ AAFES employee

Even cerebral palsy couldn’t stop Timothy Johnson from excelling in his job at the Kirtland AFB BX where he works in the Power Zone electronics department. Johnson was recognized as the 2003 Outstanding Person with a Disability Award, presented by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service vice commander, Brig. Gen. Toreaser A. Steele, in November. Johnson also

received the general’s commander coin for his outstanding customer service.

Although Johnson tolerates some physical limitations, he is full speed ahead in his knowledge and expertise in the realm of electronics, helping his customers with their selections of cameras, computers and other items in his department.

And along with his expertise,

Johnson offers his personal interest and patience, helping people find what they need and want in electronics.

At home, the former “military brat” enjoys working on his ham radio and holds an FCC license. He also enjoys watching sports and science fiction programs and has volunteered at Van Buren Middle School, where he was recognized with an “Angel Pin” for his work with at-risk children.

# Court martial

## Underage sex, disobeying order net SrA discharge, confinement

**BY MAJOR TIFFANY DAWSON**  
377th Air Base Wing  
Military Justice

Senior Airman Donny R. Stafford, 58th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was convicted in a general court martial on Nov. 24, of carnal knowledge, sodomy and disobeying a lawful order.

Stafford was investigated by the Air Force Office of Special Investigation concerning his relationship with a 15-year-old girl after the victim’s family brought forward allegations that Stafford was sexually involved with her. That investigation revealed a sexual relationship that spanned a six-month period.

While the investigation was pending, Stafford was ordered by his squadron commander not to have any contact with the victim. Over the course of the next four months, Stafford continued to contact the victim through telephone, e-mail and internet chat rooms.

Stafford pleaded guilty to wrongfully engaging in acts of sexual intercourse with a person under 16 years of age (carnal knowledge), sodomy and disobeying a lawful order.

He elected to be tried by a military judge alone and was found guilty on these charges. During his guilty plea, Stafford admitted that although he knew the victim was only 15 years old, he became sexually involved with her in a relationship that lasted six months.

Despite being ordered not to have contact with the victim, Stafford ad-

mitted to frequently contacting the victim for several months.

The prosecution portrayed Stafford as a sexual predator, focusing on the long-term impact on the victim and her family. In addition to the betrayal of trust, the government argued that Stafford’s criminal misconduct destroyed the innocence of a 15-year-old girl and dishonored the military in the public’s eyes.

The prosecution recommended a

duct discharge, 36 months confinement, reduction to E-1 and total forfeitures.

Prior to trial, in exchange for Stafford pleading guilty, the convening authority agreed to limit confinement to 30 months.

Shortly after the sentence was announced, Stafford was taken to the Kirtland Confinement Facility to begin serving his term of confinement.

Circuit Trial Counsel in the case

*‘Stafford destroyed the trust that this family placed in him, as well as discredited the U.S. Air Force.’*

**Capt. Terrence McCollom**  
Assistant trial counsel

dishonorable discharge, 42 months confinement, reduction to E-1, and total forfeitures.

During the sentencing argument, the defense argued that the victim’s age was a mitigating factor because she was close to the legal age and that the long-term effects on the victim were overstated. Further, the defense argued that Stafford’s misconduct did not accurately portray his true character or military performance.

The defense asked the military judge to forego a punitive discharge, arguing instead that eight months confinement was punishment enough.

The military judge, Col. Anne Burman, sentenced Stafford to a bad con-

was Maj. Scott Wilkov and assistant trial counsel was Capt. Terrence McCollom of the Kirtland AFB Legal Office.

McCollom said, “Stafford’s misconduct was deplorable. His decision to become sexually involved with a young girl was inexcusable and has potential life-long consequences for her and her family.

“Stafford destroyed the trust that this family placed in him, as well as discredited the U.S. Air Force. The court’s sentence shows that military members who knowingly engage in inappropriate sexual relationships will face significant punishment for their actions.”





Photo by Dennis Carlson

## Honoring those who render honors to veterans

The Kirtland Honor Guard was recognized for outstanding service and volunteerism at the Nov. 21 banquet with guest speaker Capt. Juan F. Garcia, the operations officer for the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard at Bolling AFB, D.C.

Members of the honor guard were awarded citations for the outstanding performances and achievements in service, rendering honors to veterans at funerals throughout the state.

# Extra time off granted to returning Guard, Reserves

WASHINGTON—Federal employees returning from Guard and Reserve duty in the terror war are receiving an extra five days’ “uncharged” civilian leave.

President Bush directed the move in a Nov. 14 memorandum ([www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/11/20031114-10.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/11/20031114-10.html)) issued to the heads of all executive departments and agencies.

“As we welcome home returning federal civil servants who were called to active duty in the continuing global war on terrorism,” the president wrote, “we recognize the contributions they have made in the defense of freedom.

“Whether they served with the Reserve forces or the Air and Army National Guard,” he continued, “each of them has my personal gratitude and the respect and admiration of a grateful nation.”

According to the Office of Personnel Management, the president’s request covers all employees who were activated for military service in connec-

tion with Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Office of Personnel Management Director Kay Coles James issued a memo following the president’s, further explaining the added leave policy.

According to OPM, agencies may grant this period of excused absence prior to the employee’s resumption of duties, or at a time mutually agreeable to the agency and the employee, if the employee has already returned to duty.

The OPM memo also provides guidance to agencies on the requirement to reinstate reservists who apply for reemployment within specified time limits.

“Many of our employees have endured great disruption to their families and their normal lives as a result of their service in the war against terrorism,” Coles wrote. “Therefore, I join the president in urging that agencies do everything possible to ease their return to civilian life.”

In granting the extended leave Bush wrote, “We are guarantors of the rights of returning service members under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act ([www.osc.gov/userra.htm](http://www.osc.gov/userra.htm)),” the president wrote, “and I am personally committed to providing each of them with our full support, recognition and assistance.

“The federal government will continue to be the model for employer support to the Guard and Reserve,” Bush emphasized. The president’s memo also urged senior government officials to recognize the many federal civilian employees who have contributed to the terror war while their “fellow activated workers” were away.

More information on agency requirements for returning reservists can be found at the OPM Web site ([www.opm.gov/oca/compmemo/2001/2001-09A.asp](http://www.opm.gov/oca/compmemo/2001/2001-09A.asp)).

## Officer assignment system changed

The Air Force Officer Assignment System is being improved by allowing more input from the affected officers and commanders.

The old Preference Worksheet is being replaced with the Transitional-Officer Development Plan (T-ODP).

While the procedures for updating the T-ODP are basically the same, key elements have been added. The ability to express a desire to command, to attend developmental education, to become an instructor, or to go to a special duty assignment is now available.

Officers still must have the ability to communicate immediate assignment preferences. The T-ODP adds to this by allowing the officer to articulate long-term developmental goals.

This information is reviewed by the commander and then given a “vector check” by the Development Team

at the Air Force Personnel Center. Development Teams are groups of experts in a given career field who will either support the officer’s goals with an “on target” recommendation or will recommend an alternative Officer Development Plan.

The purpose of these changes is to ensure clear communication between the officer, commander, Development Team and Assignment Team.

All officers should review their T-ODP, but especially those who have been identified on the Vulnerable to Move List.

To review your T-ODP, visit the AFPC Web site at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afas](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afas).

Questions should be addressed to the Military Personnel Flight, 846-8979.

## Tax statements available on myPay

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFPN)—Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials have compiled a schedule of dates when servicemembers, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilian employees can access their tax statements through myPay.

Military members and DOD civilian employees will have access to view, save and print their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

For assistance, users can call myPay customer support at 800-390-2348.

MyPay provides a secure method for users to manage their pay account information, officials said. Available around the clock, customers can make changes online, instead of visiting a fi-

nance office.

Officials are projecting the tax statements will be posted on myPay during the following periods.

- ★ **Military annuitants:** Dec. 13 to 18
- ★ **DOD civilians:** Dec. 24 to 29
- ★ **Army, Air Force and Navy reserve components:** Dec. 26 to Jan. 1
- ★ **Military retirees:** Jan. 1 to 5
- ★ **Marine Corps active duty and Reserve:** Jan. 13 to 21
- ★ **Army, Air Force and Navy active duty:** Jan. 16 to 26

Pat Shine, director of DFAS’ military and civilian pay services business line, said, “Timely access to W-2s and other tax statements is another way myPay gives users control of their pay information.”